

Madison County Weed Board

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The Regular meeting of the Madison County Weed Board for November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006 was called to order at 1:30p.m. by Chairperson Betty Sykes. Present at the meeting were John Armstrong Chuck Buus, Margie Edsall, Janie Alt, Sam Little Jefferson County Coordinator,& Linda Varooman Gallatin County Weed Board. Absent was Guy Buyan.

John Armstrong made a motion to approve the September 15, 2006 Board minutes as presented. Chuck Buus second, all voted aye and the motion carried.

This portion of the meeting Sam Little, Jefferson County Coordinator was ask by his Board and his Commissioners to speak to the Madison County Board about a possible cooperative management between the two counties. The Jefferson River Watershed Counsel had receive a grant from the GLCI but had since lost their Coordinator Roxanne Lincoln, therefore Jefferson County Weed Board is thinking about approaching the Watershed Counsel and the NRCS about assuming the position of the grantee. The grant area is located in the Fish Creek drainage where the Madison, the Silver Bow& Jefferson come together up around Hwy 55. The 1<sup>st</sup> year the grant would cover 50/50 for the herbicide and contracted services then the second and third year they would ask the counties to utilize their own county 50/50 cost share programs. At this point Margie requested from Sam to see a the original grant & a copy of the map area to see who the cooperators are that are listed on the grant. This would be a 4 year project.

As to date Jefferson County has \$6000.00 committed to the grant. There has been no one from Madison County involved yet.

Sam brought attention to the Board about a meeting taking place on the 29<sup>th</sup> that will involve Commissioner Dave Schulz and Madison County Coordinator Margie Edsall and Jefferson County Commissioners and Weed Board about putting together some personnel in the Whitehall area that would service both Jefferson & Madison Counties Sam wanted to make it clear that this was just a project in the works and wanted the Board to have a heads up with what might possibly be proposed.

Other issues were brought up with the Extension Office.

The Board agreed that this subject was one to be discussed with the Commissioners. More discussion on this issue will be presented at the next Weed Board meeting after the November 29<sup>th</sup> meeting takes place.

Old Business:

Office & Program Activities: Margie attended a Big Hole Watershed Weed Committee to look at the future of the committee. They broke into sub committees to discusses some future plans. They will be meeting again on December 7<sup>th</sup> to further discuss some short term goals.

Margie also met with Melissa Griffiths from MVRG to develop a budget for the Madison Grant application. On November 30<sup>th</sup> Margie will meet in Dillon with MSU and the Department of Ag who is in the process of developing a buffer zone between Montana, & Idaho, & would also include Wyoming, S.Dakota & N. Dakota. The buffer zone would be on 15 miles each sides of the state line. This is to develop weed free areas to stop the spread of noxious weeds that haven't made their way into these states yet. Topic of discussion will be what impact it will have on Madison & Beaverhead Counties

Madison County Weed Board received another \$1785.71 for the 2840 through DOA. MDT contributes 100,000.00 every year and is distributed to all the counties. This is used for special county grants.

Personnel Update Janie is back to 3 days a week.

Weed Board Postion: Bennie Clark s resigned her position on the Weed Board due to other obligations. We will be looking for someone from the Madison side to fill this position. If you or someone you know might be interested please contact the Madison County Weed Board office @ 843-5594.

Other Old Business: None.

New Business:

Weed Management Plans: The Board reviewed one Weed Management Plan for Paula Herman it was approved and signed. There were two Subdivision Plans reviewed and signed They were the North Forty and Red River Development with modifications, & there was one resubmit for the Bear Creek Estates. There were about 106 letters sent out this season and 7 enforcements done.

New Subdivision fee went into effect November 6, they are:

- Minor Subd. (1-5 lots) will be \$75 plus travel expense (at State rate per mile)
- Major Subd will be \$75 plus travel (at State rate) plus \$7.50 for each additional lot.

Grant Applications: Margie presented the Board with copies of the grant applications for the Norwegian/S. Willow Cr. Drainage, & Vigilante Phase II

- Norwegian/S. Willow - \$27,696.00
- Vigilante – 15,615.00
- Madison – 80,000.00

Grant hearings will be in Helena March 15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>.

MWCA Workshop: Margie asked the Board for approval to attend the MWCA workshop on Conflict & Resolution. Board agreed for her to attend.

Trust Fund Council: Margie was approached by Jack Eddie & few others to sit on the Trust Fund Council. She would give up her position as Treasure for the MWCA which expires in 2007 if she decides to run for the Trust Fund Counsel position.

Matching Funds for Edu. Grant: Marijka Wessner, Missoula, MWCA Education Chair approached Margie for a \$100 donation toward an Educational Grant. This would go towards developing educational materials for grades K-12. John Armstrong motioned to donate \$100 toward the educational grant and Chuck Buus second. All voted aye motion carried.

Budget An adjustment needed to be made to line item 373 meal, travel & lodging and put into 398 contracted services.

Margie mention that no money will be taken out of the BLM budget this year for the Sheep Institute project.

Other New Business: Commissioner, Dave Schulz was present for this portion of the meeting. He sat down and discussed with the Board about going to Washington D.C on behalf of weed control which he has done for the last 4-5 yrs. He was asked to go again this year and approached the Board about possibly helping out with travel expense. It cost approximately \$2500.00 for airfare, food, & lodging for a week. Commissioner Schulz said that he had heard really good reports on how well the crews did this year despite the weather and commended Margie on a job well done.

Commissioner Schulz and Sam Little continued discussion on issues with the Extensions Office.

Meeting adjourned at 3:10

Hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving

Next meeting will be December 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:30.  
Hope to see you all there

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Janie Alt, Office Manager